
Parents FLAG Edmonton

September 1994

NEXT MEETING:

**Tuesday
September 20
@ 7:30 pm**

Gay & Lesbian Community Ctr.
Rm 104, 11745 Jasper Ave.
Ph. 488-3234 OR for further
information phone Lynne at [REDACTED]

Coffee will be served Any
"edibles" you wish to bring will be
welcome.

ELECTION:

It is necessary for us to have an
election in October for positions
such as treasurer, secretary, and
several directors. Functions of
directors would include
advocacy, advertising, coordination
of social functions, phoning, and
other (?). Please bring your
thoughts on this to our September
meeting. Thankyou!



THANKYOUS

A major THANYOU to Joan and
Izydore for hosting our July
barbeque in their Garden of Eden!
We were entranced by the perfume
of flowers, the musical sounds of
water falling and the marvellous
buffet that followed. Encore!!

Editors Note: Any and all
comments, suggestions, letters to
the editor and other contributions
are most welcome. [REDACTED]

PICNICING:

The annual June Gay Pride Picnic
organized by PFLAG in Queen
Elizabeth Park proved successful
beyond our most optimistic
expectations. Over 250 lesbians,
gays, friends, and parents gathered
to eat, drink and enjoy a sunny
afternoon.

As well a profit of over \$100 was
received from the sale of pink
ribbons. We warmly thank Jenny,
Jason, Dorothy and Ernie for their
hours of labor that made this
happen.

Many thanks also to Lynne and all
those who contributed to the sale of
pop and hot dogs. A profit of
\$343.36 was realized.

We appreciate all donations
received including one for \$50!

And now a very special
THANKYOU to Jenny for
creating a splendid blue and white
PFLAG banner which was held
high in the June parade and then
later served as a colorful backdrop
for a photo of PFLAG members.

See you Sept 20! As always we
welcome lesbian & gay
participation in our group.

CONFERENCES:

The ALBERTA SUMMIT '94
 "Something for Everyone"
 conference is being held
 September 30 - October 2, 1994 in
 the new Holiday Inn, Red Deer,
 AB. The low registration fee of
 \$25 includes the following:

- *Friday wine and Cheese
- *Trade fair
- *Workshops
- *Saturday dinner & dance
- Sunday brunch & speaker

Workshops include:

- *Homosexuality & the scriptures
- *National information centre
- *Networking for social groups
- *Networking for political groups
- *Development of a Gay & Lesbian
community cable program
- *Living together: The legal ins &
outs
- *Celebrating who we are: being a
gay man in the 90's
- *Homophobia in the work place

For further info please contact:

Hilary: 343-6239

Michael: 347-2174

Mailing Address:

"Alberta Summit '94"

P.O. Box 27038

Downtown Post Office

Red Deer, AB T4N 6X8

NEWSLETTER
 CONTRIBUTIONS:

For the September edition of our
 PFLAG newsletter two
 contributions were gratefully
 received - one poetry and one
 prose:

OSTRACISING THE SELF

Preferring to sit, and watch
 helps only solitude to grow.

Colors exist
 but for me they've
 stopped breathing.

Music no longer offers
 its safe and warm escape.

I'm always trapped
 by walls
 by doors
 by my mind.

Animated,
 everything around me
 moves
 and lives
 as I blend
 into the background.

No longer sad
 for what I am
 it is all too real
 to shrug away.

Tears remain inside
 until I coax them out.
 My laughter reduces
 to faint smiles and

twitching shoulder movements.

Trying is to hard.

Letting go only angers me.

Joy is in others.

I am one of life's toys
 somehow broken.

Yet I am a fantastic actor
 feigning the roles of boyfriend,
 lover, good friend, confidant.

I am incapable of love.

There is undirected hate
 building and I cannot
 find a scapegoat.
 Perhaps none exists...

Don Blazeovich

IT'S A GAY LIFE!

As a new member of PFLAG I became interested in the contribution of gay folk to our life culture as a whole.

I asked myself how many famous gay people were there who had made a difference to life through their skills and talents? Just a few came to mind immediately, despite the oft quoted figure of 10% gays/ lesbians in the total population. Most of these suffered tragically from persecution.

Take the case of Alan Turing. Born in London, England in 1912 he was a fun loving and inquisitive child, excellng in mathematics and greatly interested in mechanisms. Educated at Cambridge University he branched into logic, which subject, fusing with his knowledge of jklmechanics and math, enabled him to produce revolutionary ideas in the field of computers. Along with others like Kurt Godel and Alonzo Church he laid the theoretical groundwork for the development of modern day electronic computers.

Some of his ideas came as brilliant flashes of inspiration or intuition, just like the lightbulb in the Ford motor commercials. Being very athletic, a cyclist and a long distance runner, he was on one occasion laying in a field relaxing after an exhausting run when he saw in his mind's eye the details of a machine rather like a typewriter which could perform



logical manoeuvres in mathematics. It became known as the Turing Machine. We know its great-grandchild as the "Apple", the "IBM", or the "Commador", etc.

Turing and a friend, both committed chess players, invented the first chess playing program. During the second world war he joined a team of British cypher experts who broke the

secret German code system ENIGMA) allowing the Allies to gain constant access to enemy war plans. In 1946 at the age of only 34 years Alan Turing was awarded the prestigious "Order of the British Empire" (OBE). Going on to the design and building of the first-generation computers in Great Britain he was also active in the work on Artificial Intelligence.

Today the name of Alan Matheson Turing, OBE, is virtually unknown outside academic circles. He died at the early age of 42 years, probably by his own hand. Prosecuted on a charge of "gross indecency", a British euphemism for homosexual behavior, he is believed to have laced an apple with cyanide and eaten it.

Who knows what further great achievements would have flowed from him had not his brilliant mind and creative spirit been stilled so violently and so soon? Who knows what fears and terrors he suffered in keeping his secret life from his eventual persecutors?

Forty years after his death in 1954 we might remember him with gratitude when we tap ever so lightly into our computer key boards.

Thankyou, Alan, for your life!

E.N. Young

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS:

Following are forms on which to
apply or reapply for membership.

All applications are very much
appreciated. Thankyou!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Individual Membership	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Household Membership	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student/limited Income	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Newsletter subscription	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donation	\$_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Make cheques payable to P-FLAG/Edmonton and Mail to:
Cindy _____



Name _____
Address _____
City _____
Postal Code _____

Date _____
Phone _____
Prov. _____

P-FLAG is a non-profit and all volunteer support P-FLAG group not
affiliated with any ethnic, political or religious organizations.
Memberships are available for all. All information collected is
strictly confidential.